GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:46
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2008
INDO IRAN GAS PIPELINE
Oram Shri Jual;Rijiju Shri Kiren

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Indo-Iran gas pipeline project;

(b) whether its security implication has been examined in view of the latest developments in Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether China is also joining this project;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(f) the steps taken to ensure the economic viability and safety from different angles; and (g) the hurdles being faced by India in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 46 ASKED BY SHRI JUAL ORAM & SHRI KIREN RIJIJU, MPs TO BE ANSWERED ON 28th FEBRUARY 2008 REGARDING INDO-IRAN GAS PIPELINE.

(a): India has been pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) transnational gas pipeline; important issues concerning the implementation of the Project are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

(b) to (g): As per current indications, pipeline within Iran upto Iran-Pakistan border will be laid and operated by an agency to be nominated by Iran. Iran wants to sell gas at Iran-Pakistan Border. So all responsibility for safety and security of the pipeline within Iran will vest with Iran. Safety and security of pipeline and gas within Pakistan will be provided by the Pakistan Government for which a transit fee would be levied. Discussions regarding the security package by the Pakistan Government and the transit fee are continuing. Suitable provisions will be included in the contract with the Pakistan side for safety & security of the pipeline. It has been agreed that the pipeline proposed to be laid in Iran, Pakistan and India will be constructed as per the international standards, incorporating all safety features. It is envisaged to provide round-the-clock communication and supervisory control system all along the pipeline.
Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the project.
No official communication has been received regarding China joining IPI gas pipeline Project.